

Message Text

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USARJ CAMP ZAMA

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECTC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCHEDULE: NEXT SIX MONTHS

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE LISTS THE MAJOR UPCOMING DOMESTIC
POLITICAL EVENTS OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, INCLUDING THE
LIKLIHOOD OF A LATE SPRING GENERAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE SHAPE OF THE
DOMESTIC POLITICAL AGENDA OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. THE
MAJOR EVENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS (A QUESTION MARK - ? - BEFORE
THE DATE INDICATES IT IS NOT FIRM):

DECEMBER 20-25 END OF CURRENT EXTRAORDINARY DIET
SESSION NOW SCHEDULED TO END DECEMBER 20. 3-5 DAY EXTENSION
MAY BE NECESSARY TO PASS REMAINING TWO IMPORTANT BILLS.

DECEMBER 27 - FORMAL OPENING OF 150-DAY REGULAR DIET SESSION.
EXPECTED TO ADJOURN IMMEDIATELY FOR YEAREND HOLIDAYS.

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DECEMBER 29-30 - CURRENT DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF BUREAU-

UCRATIC AND LDP CONSIDERATIN OF JFY 1976 BUDGET. SEVERAL
CHANGES IN PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTERS ALSO LIKELY.

JANUARY 21 - LDP CONVENTION. ALTHOUGH TOP FIVE PARTY OFFICERS
WILL REMAIN, SWITCHES IN SEVERAL LOWER PARTY POSTS LIKELY.

LATE JANUARY - RESUMPTION OF REGULAR DIET SESSION. AFTER
PRIMIN'S POLICY SPEECH, DEBATE ON BUDGET WILL COMMENCE.

?MID-LATE MARCH - LOWER HOUSE PASSAGE OF BUDGET.

? MID-LATE APRIL (THIRTY DAYS LATER) - LOWER HOUSE PASSAGE OF
BUDGET. AUTOMATIC UPPER HOUSE BUDGET PASSAGE.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER LOWER HOUSE DISSOLUTION.

?MID MAY - EARLY JUNE -GENERAL (LOWER HOUSE) ELECTION.

2. COMMENT. A LATE SPRING ELECTION IS NOW ALMOST TAKEN
FOR GRANTED HERE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW IMPORTANT
HOLD-OUTS, SUCH AS LDP VICE PRESIDENT SHIINA WHO
CONTINES TO PLUMP FOR LATER DISSOLUTION. BUT AS LDP
ELDER SHIGERU HORI TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 15, IT WILL
BE DIFFICULT TO CONSIDER ANYTHING AFTER THE BUDGET PASSES.
IF SO, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE DIET WILL GET DOWN TO
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF ANY NON-BUDGET SUBSTANTIVE LEGIS-
LATION UNTIL LATE MAY TO MID-JUNE.
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